What is Claimed:

1. A data structure formatted according to extensible markup language (XML) including data representative of a canonical UI description of a device to be controlled for use by a universal console.

2. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A.

3. A data structure according to claim 2, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A.

4. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.

5. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2, with increment δ.

6. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x1 through x2, with increment δ.

7. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s.

8.   A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S.

9.   A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s, resulting in a second string s'.

10.   A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A'.

11.   A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.

12.   A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.

13.   A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.

14.   A data structure according to claim 13, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.